966. f. 23
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A TRUE

ACCOUNT

OF THE

ALOE *Americana* or *Africana*,

Which is now in BLOSSOM in

Mr. *Cowell's* Garden

AT

HOXTON;

Which is upwards of Twenty Foot high, and has
already *put forth* Thirty Branches for *Flowers*,
all upon one STEM, Twelve whereof are
already *fairly Opened* and *Blown out*.

AS ALSO

Of Two other Exotick PLANTS, call'd,

The *Cereus*, or *Torch-Thiſtle*,

Which have likewiſe *put forth* their *Bloſſoms* in
Mr. *Cowell's* ſaid GARDEN.

The like whereof has never been ſeen in *England* before.

K

LONDON:
rinted for *T. Warner*, at the *Black Boy* in *Pater-noſter-Row*; and Sold by *H. Whitridge* in *Caſtle-Alley* at the *Royal Exchange*; and Mr. *Cowell* at
Hoxton. 1729.

BRITISH MUSEUM

THE
PREFACE.

MR. Cowell *would not have troubled the World with any Preface to this Work, had it not been, that he is very Unjuſtly and Injuriouſly invaded in his Property on this extraordinary Occaſion.*

This is done by a certain Engraver, who has taken a private and imperfect Sketch of this curious Plant, and preſented a Print of it to the World.

That it muſt be but a Sketch or imperfect Draught of the Plant, is evident, becauſe the Work of Nature itſelf is not yet perfected or finiſhed, and a perfect Plan can never be taken from an imperfect Fabrick, ſo that, at beſt, it is, as a Spurious ſo an Unfiniſh'd Work.

That it is Injurious and Unjuſt, and, as Mr. Cowell *thinks, Unchriſtian, is evident from all the Circumſtances of it, and particularly from this; Mr.* Cowell, *who having had many Loſſes and great Misfortunes in the World, was not in the beſt Circumſtances, (though always Honeſt, and had ſhewn himſelf ſo, through the hardeſt and worſt of his Diſaſters) look'd upon this ſurprizing Shooting up of this Plant, as a ſingular Gift of Heaven, ſent for his Relief in the Midſt of his Diſaſters.*

Accordingly, that he might ſhew his Senſe of the Bounty of Heaven, and act as became an Honeſt Man, on the Occaſion of ſo merci-

ful a Providence, he had, with the utmoſt Integrity, applied the firſt Profits of this great Gift, to diſcharge honeſtly thoſe Incumbrances which were upon him; and reſolved to continue doing ſo, 'till he had fully paid every Man his Due; reſerving the Supply of himſelf and Family 'till laſt.

In the Middle of this particular Conduct of Mr. Cowell, *for the Truth whereof he appeals to the Perſons concern'd, who, he doubts not, will teſtify the ſame in his Behalf, comes this Engraver, and to take the Means out of his Hands for finiſhing his Honeſt and Upright Deſign, has, as is ſaid above, clandeſtinely taken and publiſhed this imperfect Print.*

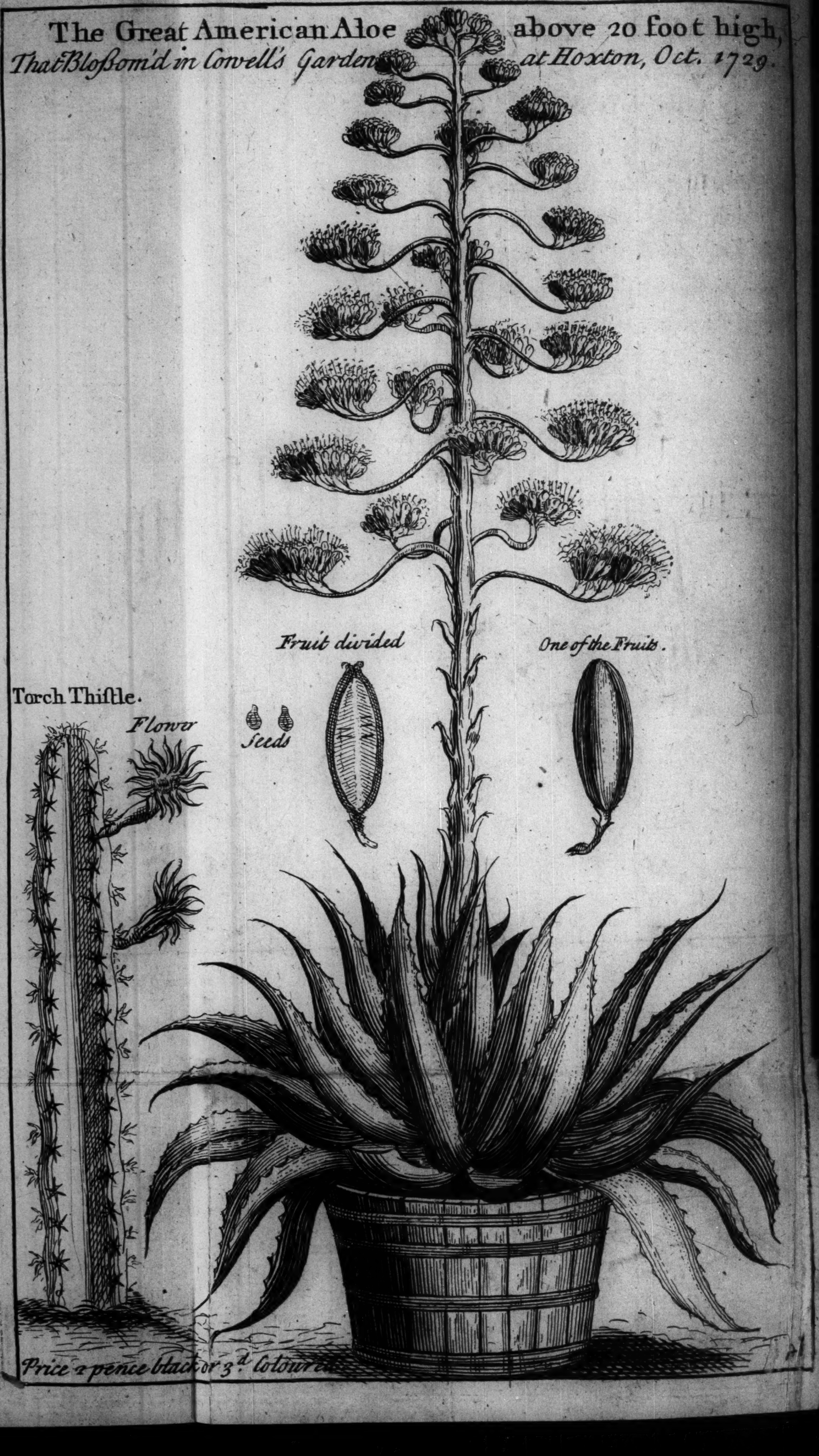
Mr. Cowell *believes Sir* Hans Sloane, *whoſe Goodneſs he has abuſed, in putting his Name in the Front of his Print, whether with his Conſent or not, would be very far from countenancing or encouraging ſuch an Action, eſpecially on* a poor Man *who had never injured or offended him; and it is for the Information and Satisfaction of that worthy and honourable*

Gentleman, as well as for Undeceiving the World, that this Preface is prefixed.

N. B. *Mr.* Cowell *has a Perfect and Compleat Draught of the ſaid* Aloe *and* Torch-Thiſtle, *now making, and which will be finiſhed in a few Days, which will fully expoſe that ridiculous Performance,*

A TRUE

BRITISH MUSEUM



The Great American Aloe above 20 foot high,

That Bloſsom'd in Cowell's Garden at Hoxton, Oct. 1729.

Price 2 pence black or 3^{d}. Coloured

A TRUE
ACCOUNT
OF THE
ALOE Americana or *Africana*,
NOW
Bloſſoming in *HOXTON*.

CHAP. I.

AS the World has been ſurpriz'd for above three Months paſt, with an Account of the unexpected Growth of the famous Plant called the *Aloes*; and that this extraordinary Appearance is not a pretended Wonder, or a Thing bluſter'd into the World by a Flouriſh of Words, to raiſe the Expectations of the People, in order to excite their Curioſity at the Expence of their Pockets: So we cannot believe, but it will be agreeable to the curious Part of Mankind, to have a full Account given of it; as well to inform them what it is not, as what it is, that nothing may be expected but what will to their full Satisfaction be found Real and Subſtantial, as well as Rare and Curious; and ſince Nature can be no Cheat, and nothing can counterfeit Vegetative Life, Mr. *Cowell* is in no Pain about the Truth of the following Account, the Production being viſible to every Obſerver; and whoever doubts the Fact, has no more to do, but with his naked Eye to convince himſelf, and be fully ſatisfied he is not impos'd upon.

We have had abundance of Opinions paſs'd in common Converſation upon the ſhooting up of this Plant, in ſo ſudden and extraordinary a Manner, every Man ſpeaking his private Judgment, as the particular kind of Information he has receiv'd has furniſh'd him about it; and ſome Gentlemen who have been Abroad, have likewiſe ſpoken of it, as they ſuppoſed, more directly than others, from having ſeen the like Plant in remote Parts of the World: In this it is very remarkable, and worth our obſerving, that thoſe Gentlemen (Travellers) have appear'd, if that be credible, rather more Miſtaken, than our more curious Obſervers of Nature have been, who have ſtaid at Home: The Reaſon of which, in a few Words take thus;

The Gentlemen I ſpeak of, who having been Abroad, have ſeen various Kinds of Plants which go by this Name, in ſeveral diſtant Parts of the World, are ordinarily of the ſeveral Denominations following:

1. *Seafaring Men*; not in general the ordinary Sailors, or *Foremaſt Men*, for they are ſeldom capable of much Obſervation; and if they were, have not Opportunities on Shore frequent enough to inform themſelves; but Captains and other Officers on board ſuch Ships as have made Voyages to *India* or to *America*, or other very remote Parts; and eſpecially the Officers on board Ships of War, or, as we call them, Privateers, or Letters of Mart Ships; theſe have ordinarily more Men of Letters on board them than other Ships; who go Abroad upon Adventures, and who going long cruizing Voyages, have more Opportunity to view the Countries they diſcover, and to take Notice of what is rare and worth obſerving; and thoſe Gentlemen are alſo more curious to inform themſelves where-ever they come, and more prying into the Productions of Nature in the remote Parts of the World.

2. More eſpecially the Surgeons and Chaplains of ſuch Ships: Theſe alſo are many times Men of Curioſity, and not only capable of inquiring into the Works of Nature, but apply themſelves to it with a particular Care.

3. Among the Commanders, Maſters, and Pilots, ſometimes are found Men of Genius; and as they ought always to be Men of Art and of Mathematical Knowledge, ſo ſometimes we find them good Philoſophers; and ſuch, though

all Philoſophers are not Botaniſts, yet have frequently given very good Accounts of the ſeveral Plants which they have ſeen occaſionally in foreign Parts.

Now it muſt be acknowledg'd, That though many of theſe Gentlemen, and ſome of very good Judgment, have ſeen and obſerv'd this Plant now Blowing at *Hoxton*, yet, as they have ſeen a quite different Production bearing the ſame Name in different Parts of the World where they may have ſeverally been, ſo they have entertain'd a quite different Idea of this Plant now to be ſeen; one expecting it in one Form, and one in another, I mean as to its Bloſſom, and few, if any of them, have given a right Account of it; as Nature, which will very ſoon diſcover their Miſtakes, deſigns to preſent it to the World.

Even thoſe *Aloes* which we have had in ſome particular Gardens, in this and other Parts of the Northern World, have differ'd exceedingly from this, as ſome of them have done alſo from one another; particularly thoſe Two, which about 15 Years ago flower'd in his Majeſty's Garden at *Hampton-Court*, as alſo one in the late Duke of *Buckinghamſhire's* Garden, not in, but adjoining to St. *James's Park*, of which the Learned Mr. *Bradley* gives an Account in his *Hiſtoria Plantarum Succulentarum*. I ſay, all theſe differ'd very much from this Plant, as appears from the Deſcription which the ſaid Mr. *Bradley* has given of them, which is more eminently ſeen in the

Picture or Cut of that particular Plant, which, as he ſays, bloſſom'd in the Garden of *Buckinghamſhire* Houſe, near the Park.

This Plant, though the Leaves were much the ſame with this now in Bloom, and it ſeem'd to be of the ſame Kind, or very near it, yet Nature, which is certainly the beſt Arbiter of that Difficulty, ſhews evidently a Difference in the Kind. For Example,

1. The Aloes which Mr. *Bradley* ſhews to the World in a fair Print in his ſaid Book, ſhoots out no leſs than four upright Stems of unequal Height and Thickneſs (the Thickneſs Mr. *Bradley* does not deſcribe) the Height he ſuggeſts to be about 17 Foot; I ſuppoſe he means the higheſt of them, for two of the four are not ſo high by far; one being about 9 Foot, and the other not above 7 Foot high; though, indeed, the two laſt ſeem'd to be ſtill growing when the Ingraver took the Draught of them, and, perhaps, might be afterwards as tall as the other.

2. Nor are the Flowers the ſame, or indeed is there, as I think, any Affinity between them; for thoſe which Mr. *Bradley* gives us the Deſcription of, grow out without any Equality in their Cluſters, ſpreading and opening into ſeparate and diſtinct Flowers. Each of thoſe Flowers having a ſeparate Stalk to itſelf, ſhooting upright, though a little ſlanting from the Head of the Branch from whence it proceeds, in all which Particulars it ſeems to ſhow itſelf to be of a Kind extremely different from this at *Hoxton*, tho' at the ſame time it

comes into the ſame Species, and may be call'd an Aloe, tho' of another Sort.

Now the Difference of this Plant from the ALOE we are here deſcribing, and which Nature, we doubt not, will ſoon fairly diſplay to the World, is this; that our ALOE riſes up in one main Stem only, and of a much greater Magnitude than thoſe above-mention'd, and is already ſhot upwards above three Foot higher than the higheſt of thoſe Stems which Mr. *Bradley* deſcribes. The Circumference of the ſaid Stem or Stalk being near its firſt coming out from the ordinary Stock of the Plant, at leaſt twelve Inches, and its Growth perpendicular and ſtanding upright and ſtrong like a Tree, whereas the others ſhew tender and reclining like a Shrub.

It is true, the Flowers being now ſo near their opening, it cannot be aſcertained how high it may yet grow, nor do we know that it will ſhoot much after the ſpreading of ſo many Flowers, which muſt greatly exhauſt the Plant of its Moiſture, or, at leaſt of a very great Quantity; which Moiſture would, perhaps, ſupply the ſecret Operation for thruſting up the Tube of the Plant to a greater Heighth. But we are aſſured, that the *Aloe* which blow'd in his *Pruſſian* Majeſty's Royal Garden, was no leſs than forty Foot high; and as this is certainly of the very ſame Kind with that Plant, it is more than probable, it may grow up to the ſame Heighth.

That this is of the ſame Species with that Plant which blow'd in the King of *Pruſſia's* Garden, is confirm'd by the Manner of its Growth, and the apparent Likeneſs of its blowing Branches, of which we ſhall ſay more preſently.

That there may be ſuch an extraordinary Variety in the Kinds of this Plant, the Learned Botaniſts will not think at all ſtrange; ſince, as the Curious have obſerv'd, almoſt all Vegetables pnt themſelves forth with a Variety vaſtly differing from one another, as the Climates, the Soil, and the Strength and Vigour of the particular Plant ſhall direct; and we ſee ſo many Examples of this kind, that the Curious would think it loſing Time and Labour to give an Account of it.

'Tis alſo evident, that not only the Shape, the Leaf, the Flower, and even the Colours of many Plants, whoſe Original may be the ſame, vary and change, but even the Virtues and Qualities are chang'd alſo, as the Climate or Soil is chang'd in which it grows.

Whether this is the only Reaſon of the great Variety of Plants which we ſee in ſeveral Parts of the World bearing the ſame Name, I will not determine, though it ſeems highly probable it ſhould be ſo; and particularly in this Plant, becauſe the Shape of its Leaf is ſo evidently preſerv'd, and the manner of its being arm'd with Points and Prickles, ſo ſtrong and ſo many in all the Extremities of the Leaf.

The Kinds then of this Plant being ſo many, and ſo different, it ſhould not be wonder'd at, if this Plant appears not to bear much Affinity to that ALOES, if it ought to be call'd ſo, which bloſſom'd in the Royal Garden at *Hampton Court*, or to the like Plant in the Duke of *Buckinghamſhire*'s Garden: But as it is of a differing Kind, ſo it is evident that it is of a ſuperior Kind, and that not only in Magnitude and Height, but even in the different Manner of its blowing, and in the Rarity of it as to Time; for thoſe Plants at *Hampton-Court*, and in *Buckinghamſhire* Garden, blow'd, as I am inform'd, while the Plants were but of a moderate Age, ſome have ſaid that they were but about 12 to 14 Years old at the moſt.

On the contrary, this Plant has already been in the Garden, now Mr. *Cowell's*, and where it at preſent ſtands, upwards of 40 Years, and never till now put forth any Stem or Stalk which look'd like an Upright, nor, as Mr. *Cowell* thinks, had it done ſo under two or three Years more, had not he uſed ſome extraordinary Care in mixing the Soil in which it grew, and adapting it to the natural Conſtitution of the Country where it naturally grows.

This (it may be ſuppos'd) gave Birth to the Notion which Mr. *Cowell* finds moſt of thoſe Gentlemen who come from *India* had received of it; namely, that it does not blow ordinarily but once in an hundred Years; whereas the ſame Plant growing in *Mexico*, and in the Province of *Guatimala*, and on the Lake of *Nicaragua*,

Nicaragua, where they tell us, they are very frequent, blows, as I am inform'd, every five Years, or thereabouts.

It is true, they all agree, that there are ſeveral Kinds of *Aloe* upon the ſaid Lake of *Nicaragua*, and that moſt of them blow in ſeveral Stems, according to this repreſented by Mr. *Bradley*; which Kind, however, is not ſo much eſteem'd as the other which grows more leiſurely, and ſhoots forth but one Stem: That Stem, as may be ſuppoſed, being ſtronger and firmer in the Nature and Quality of its Juices, as well as in the Production of it ſide Branches and Flowers, grows by Vertue of its Increaſe of Vigour and Strength to a greater Height; and Travellers, who have been curious in their Inquiry, aſſure us, they uſually grow to the Height of 40 to 45 Foot.

Some inlarge upon their Dimenſions, and repreſent them as growing to a monſtrous Bulk, and that the Leaves are 15 to 17 Foot long, the Circumference of the Stem three or four Foot, and the Heighth above 70 Foot. But we deſire to carry no Rhodomontades forward in this Account; it is certain, that the ALOE which grew in his *Pruſſian* Majeſty's Garden, of which I have procur'd an exact Draught, as it was taken from the Original, was 40 Foot in Heighth; that it had but one Tube or Stem, as this has, and of the ſame, or like Dimenſions; and it ſeems unqueſtionable, that the Flower which this ALOE, now blowing, puts forth will be the ſame, that is to ſay, of the ſame kind with that in *Pruſſia*.

I am inform'd there have ſeveral *Aloes* blowed in ſome Gardens in *Holland*, as particularly in *Mynheer Van Citter*'s Garden at *Utrecht*; but upon farther Inquiry I find that they are all, or the moſt Part of an inferior Quality, and, as I ſuppoſe, the ſame or like kind with that which Mr. *Bradley* has deſcrib'd, which put forth its Bloſſom at *Hampton-Court*; and if I am not miſtaken, thoſe two great Plants in the Royal Garden at *Hampton-Court* were brought from *Holland* from the *Maiſon de Bois*, or the *Houſe in the Wood*, a Palace of the late Princ of *Orange*, called by that Name; and where his Majeſty the late King *William* had a great many curious Exotic Plants, and thoſe amon the reſt; but as it ſeems they were, according to Mr. *Bradley*'s Deſcription, which I doubt not is very exact, it is likely that the reſ of them which have blowed in *Holland*, (i any has blowed there,) were of the ſame o like kind.

The ſaid Mr. *Bradley* calls the aforeſaid *Alo* *Americana*, and I doubt not but he has good Authority for ſo doing; for that, as I have ſaid this kind are frequently found in the Provinc of *Guatimala*, in the Empire of *Mexico*, an on the Banks of the great Lake of *Nicaragua*; but then it is to be remembred alſ that this greater ALOE is alſo found there as has been ſaid, and is very frequent there too

I have been told alſo, that Prince *Eugene* of *Savoy*, in the fine Gardens which he made at his Palace, near *Vienna*, adjoining to the Emperor's Palace of *Le Favourita*, had a large Plant of the *Aloe*, among a great many rare Plants brought him by the Navigation of the *Danube* and of the *Black Sea* from *Armenia*, and conſequently from *Perſia*, where alſo this Plant is found; and I underſtand that his Highneſs valued it at a very high Rate; and in the Year 1717. it bloſſom'd alſo, as theſe in *Holland* and in *England* have done.

But by the ſtricteſt Inquiry which I have been able to make, this Plant at *Vienna* was alſo of an inferior Quality, and that though it did put forth but one Stem, yet the ſaid Stem was not equal to that of his *Pruſſian* Majeſty's, for Height or Thickneſs; nor was it equal to this ALOE we are ſpeaking of, which is now blowing, and on which, tho' the Flowers are not yet all come out, the Stem is already above two Yards higher than that of the Prince's when fully blown, which at its utmoſt Height was not above 14 Foot high, nor was the Prince's Plant ſo thick in the Stem as this is by ſeveral Inches: ſo that if it was of the ſame kind, it was certainly of a weaker Growth, or of a differing Sort even under the ſame Denomination.

CHAP. II.

Of the Flower *this* ALOE *will bear, and the Difference from the* Flower *or* Bloſſom *of the other Plants of the ſame Name.*

IT remains to ſpeak of the Flower or Bloſſom which the *Aloes* in general is ſaid to bear. It is much eaſier to deſcribe the Variety of the Plant called by the Name of the ALOE, by the Difference of the Leaf, the Stalk, and the Manner of its ſhooting up its blowing Stem, than it is to deſcribe it by the Flower, and by the Difference of the ſaid Flower when blown, or in the Bud, when blowing or preparing to blow; becauſe many more Plants and Kinds have been ſeen in the Leaf than in the Bloom; or rather, I might ſay, many *Aloe* Plants have been ſeen, and many Kinds or Species of them, in the Leaf, but very rarely any in the Bloſſom, or with the Flower on them.

We have ſeen ſeveral Sorts of *Aloes* in *England*, and Mr. *Cowel* has many differing Kinds now in his Keeping, in the ſame Garden with this, and which any Gentleman who is curious to diſtinguiſh Sorts, may have the Opportunity of obſerving: But as there's no Affinity in the Species, ſo neither is there any Similitude in their Appearance, neither the Leaf or the Stalk;

Colour or Shape being the ſame, or agreeing with one another.

Much leſs then will the Flower bear a Similitude; nor are we certain that the very Colour of the Bloſſom is the ſame; for as the Form and Figure of the Plant varies, ſo will the Shape and Colour, and perhaps the Smell of the Bloſſom differ alſo; as, no doubt, the Virtues and medicinal Operations, of which I ſhall ſpeak by itſelf, may do alſo.

I have, though in an imperfect Manner, deſcrib'd the Flower or Bloſſom of that particular *Aloe*, of which Mr. *Bradley* gives us an Account, and which blow'd in the Royal Garden at *Hampton-Court*, and of that which blow'd in the Gardens of *Buckinghamſhire* Houſe, which is the ſame with the other; and I am aſſured they are the ſame alſo with thoſe which blow'd at *Utrecht*.

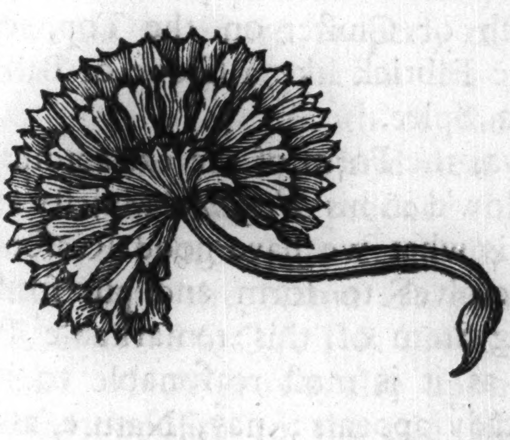
I omitted indeed in that Deſcription, that there are ſeveral ſmall Epices at the Top of every particular Flower, which ſtart out and extend themſelves beyond the Head or Opening of the Bloſſom, ſomething like the Epices in the Saffron Crocus, or like thoſe in the Hollow of the White Lilly, only much larger; what Uſe in the Production of the Species theſe Epices may be of, or whether they contain any of the generating Duſt, (the *Semen* of the Plant,) or no, I leave to the Learned; but it ſeems to me, that they do ſupply that Office in the Nature of the thing.

Others think the Colour of the Flower is ſupply'd by the ſmall Particles which flutter about inviſible, (but by the moſt exquiſite Glaſſes,) from the Top of theſe Epices, and imperceptibly cover the whole Bloſſom, and impregnate the Leaves of it, and the Pulp or Bulb; from which generating Duſt the Plant itſelf is invigorated, and made capable of putting forth its Fruit or Seed, whatever kind it is to produce; which Seed again is thereby qualfied to propagate its Kind and produce other Plants.

Not but that the particular Plant of the ALOES is ordinarily propagated by Suckers or Slips which ſhoot out from the Sides of the Root, as we ſhall ſhew in its Place. But I am of Opinion, that every Plant propagates its Kind in the ordinary Courſe of Nature, by Seeds or Fruit alſo, which buried in the Earth, will naturally produce its Self, that is, its Likeneſs, and this beſides the ſaid Suckers; only that this laſt is the quickeſt Way for the ingenious Gardener to multiply the Species, like as in the Carnation, the Auricula, the Tulip, and ſeveral other fine nice Flowers and Plants, which are propagated by Layers, Slips, and Off-Sets, and yet have all of them a viſible Seed, by which, if ſown, the ſame Plant, in kind, is alſo raiſed.

I muſt refer the Curious to the Print or Draught of the ſaid ALOES, which, as above, had bloſſom'd in the Garden of the Duke of *Buckinghamſhire, &c.* for I can give no more perfect Deſcription. From the Draught of it I come next to the Flower of the ALOES, now in Bloom, as it may be called, for the Flower already ſhews itſelf enough to know, or at leaſt to paſs a Judgment of what it will be.

The Flower of this Plant differs exceedingly already from that mentioned above; for, firſt, it differs in the Stalk, I mean, not ſo much in the main upright Stem, though that alſo differs, of which I have ſpoken at large above; but I mean the Stalk of every particular Bunch of Flowers, theſe we have always called the Bloſſom Branches, or the Side Branches, becauſe they ſhoot out of the Sides of the main or upright Stem, and ſpreading themſelves at firſt horizontally, extend ſo for about two or three and twenty Inches, and then fetching a little Sweep or Bend downward, riſe up again, almoſt or indeed very much in the Shape of a ſingle Socket in a great Branch or Church Candleſtick, as may more particularly be ſeen in the following ſmall Diagram:



When this Side Branch or little Candleſtick-Stalk is thus ſhot out, as is ſaid, horizontally, for about two and twenty Inches, it turns upward, and there, as if it were in the Place of the Socket, puts forth its Flower handſomely ſpread, in a kind of Semicircle of Flowers; and having extended the outſide Caſes or Covers of the Bud to ſuch an Extent as to ſhew the whole Flower, it then thruſts out not a few of thoſe Epices which I have obſerved of the other, but a very great Number larger and finer, and perhaps for the ſame End and Purpoſe, prominent as the other, but ſeeming much better qualified for the Work of Self-propagation.

The Flowers turning up in this Manner adds very much alſo to the Beauty and Decoration of the whole Stalk, for it is evident, they riſe one above and within another in a moſt admirable Symmetry, and making a moſt agreeable Figure, continuing to go up ſhorter and ſhorter, the firſt Side Branches being the longeſt, 'till forming a moſt beautiful Pyramid, they end in one Bunch or Cluſter on the Top, covering the whole Fabrick like a Globe or Ball on the Top of a Spire.

This was the Form of the extraordinary *Aloe* which blow'd in his *Pruſſian* Majeſty's Garden, and this is what we have good Reaſon to ſay, Nature reſolves to form and put forth upon the riſing Stem of this remarkable Plant at *Hoxton*, as it is moſt reaſonable to judge by what already appears; nay, Nature, as it were aſſures us of it already, as well by the Stem which riſes exactly in the Form and Dimenſions of the other, ſtrong and ſufficient to ſupport the Weight of its Side Branches, whereas the Plant Mr. *Bradley* deſcribes apparently yields and bends under the Weight, though the Flowers there do not ſhoot out horizontal as theſe do, and by which means ('tis evident that) the other weighs the heavier upon the main Stalk by a great deal.

It is alſo obſervable, that although there are, as is noted above, very many ſeveral Kinds of ALOES, or of Plants which perhaps by the Similitude of the Leaf rather than any Reaſon of Nature, bear the Name of ALOE, yet that there is not one Sort that I have met with or have heard of, whoſe Stem or Flower is in the leaſt Appearance like this; that in his *Pruſſian* Majeſty's Garden only excepted, and that Sort which, as I have obſerv'd, are found on the Bank or Shore of the great Lake of *Nicaragua* in *New Spain*, and from which, I ſuppoſe, our Plant is uſually called *Americana*; for otherwiſe it would be more properly called by the Sur-name of *Africana*, from the Iſlands of *Zocatra*, lying in the Mouth of the *Mare Rubrum*, or *Arabian* Gulph, and near the *African* Coaſt, which Iſlands produce that particular ALOES which is ſo fam'd in Medicine, and which from the Name *Zocatra* is called the ALOE SOCATRINA or *Zocatrana*, and which grows alſo upon the *African* Coaſt, oppoſite to the ſaid Iſlands, near the *Ethiopian* Cape, or, as the *Europeans* call it, Cape *Gardefeu*, or as ſome call it, *Gardefoy*, of all which in its Order; for the preſent we are content to give this Plant the Surname of *Americana* (though we believe it to be rather a Native of *Africa* (or of *Aſia*, as above) becauſe the King of *Pruſſia's* Gardener was pleaſed to ſtile his Majeſty's Plant, to which this Plant ſhews its Affinity ſo very plainly, by the ſame Name; with what Reaſon or Authority, I mean as to Evidence, I yet know not.

We have ſome other Reaſons alſo to give for our Opinion why this Plant, as alſo that of his *Pruſſian* Majeſty's, is of the Eaſtern Extraction, that is to ſay, the Eaſtern Coaſt of *Africa*, or of *Arabia*, all which we now ſtyle the *Eaſt-Indies*, becauſe traded to by our *Eaſt-India* Company only, and within what they reckon the Bounds of their Charter; I ſay, we have ſome other Reaſons why we believe them of this Eaſtern Extraction, as, particularly, the Nature of the Juices, which differ exceedingly from thoſe of the *Aloe Americana*, properly ſo called, and deſcribed by the learned Mr. *Bradley*, as above, and which put forth thei Bloſſoms here in the Year 1714. and 1717. an ſo of others.

Now Mr. *Bradley* who was (as himſelf ſays) a ſtrict Obſerver and frequent Viſiter of thoſ Plants at *Hampton-Court* and *Buckinghamſhir Houſe* Gardens, in the Time of their flowerin or blowing, tells us, and I do not at all queſtion his Judgment, who is ſo fam'd for a curious Remarker on all ſuch rare Occaſions; I ſay, Mr. *Bradley* tells us, that the Flowers upon the Extremity of the Side Branches, dropt a Liquor as ſweet as Honey.

This indeed merits ſome particular Remark, and will abundantly confirm our Opinion of the differing Quality of Mr. *Cowell*'s ALOE, or the *Pruſſian* ALOE, for this is far from being any Evidence at all of its being the ſame kind of Plant with theſe; nay, tho' that had emitted the ſame ſweet kind of Juice, which, however, does not appear; for that, as I am aſſured by Perſons of very good Judgment, nothing is more frequent than for the Sap of any Plant to have a ſweetiſh Taſte, when the Fruit of the ſame Plant, when come to its Perfection, ſhall be extremely bitter; nay, that ſweet Juice has evidently a ſtrong Bitter in it at laſt.

However, it ſeems alſo evident from hence, that the Plants in the Royal Gardens of *Hampton Court*, which Mr. *Bradley* mentions, were not the ſame in kind with that which flower'd in the King of *Pruſſia*'s Garden, becauſe that did not, as we can learn, emit any ſuch Juices or Liquor, nor is it indeed uſeful for any Flower to do ſo.

Then as to the Sweetneſs of ſuch Juices or Liquor, we are aſſured by that antient Botaniſt, *Rembertus Dodonæus* of *Naples*, who deſcribes this very ALOE now in Bloom, as by his Draught of the Leaf and Root appears, which is individually the ſame in every Part; his Words are, *that the whole Plant is of a bitter Taſte*, as I ſhall obſerve again preſently.

I ſhall only obſerve here, that this *Aloe* which that learned Author deſcribes, and conſequently this at *Hoxton*, is alſo the ſame in Leaf and Colour, and, we believe, the ſame alſo in kind with that which is found in *Perſia* on the Side of the *Caſpian* Sea, and alſo on the Shoars of the *Perſian* and *Arabian* Gulphs, and on the Eaſtern Coaſt of *Africa:* So that whereas the learned Mr. *Bradley* calls this Plant *Aloe Americana*, it may with as much Juſtice be called *Aloe Africana*.

For the farther Information of the Reader in this Caſe, we refer him to the ſaid *Robertus Dodonæus*, in his *Herbal*, or *Hiſtory of Plants, lib.* 3. *cap.* 17. *fol.* 353. where, after his general Account of the Herb ALOE, as he there calls it, and of its Leaf and Root, and the Colour of it, he proceeds to ſpeak of its Qualities, thus: " All the Herb, *ſays he*, is of a " ſtrong Savour and bitter Taſte, and out of it " is drawn a Juice, which is dry'd by the " Dealers in Drugs, and is alſo named ALOE, " as is the Plant itſelf, which Juice being made " hard by lying in the Sun, is carried into all " Parts of the World, to be uſed in Medicine: *He adds*; It groweth very plentifully " in *India*, and from whence cometh the beſt " Juice; but it is found alſo in other Places

« in *Arabia* and in *Africa* ;" and he might have ſaid in *America*, as is obſerv'd above.

But the Reader, perhaps, will be apt to ſuggeſt, that this is of no Importance in the Caſe before us, unleſs we prove from the ſame Author, that this *Indian* ALOE is the ſame with this now in Bloſſom, and which I am endeavouring to deſcribe.

To this I anſwer, The above Author does deſcribe it two Ways, and both confirm my Opinion, that this is the very ſame kind of ALOE as that which grows in *Arabia* and *Africa* ; nor is it unlikely to be the ſame which grows in the Iſland of *Zoccatra*, tho' perhaps, of ſomething a differing Sort.

1. He ſays, this ſame Plant is kept in ſeveral Gardens of the Herbaliſts, that is to ſay, of the Botaniſts, and other curious Perſons here in our Country, that is, in *England*.

2. And to put it out of queſtion, he gives a Draught or Print of the whole Plant, as it grows in *India* and *Arabia*, and of its Root ; which Print or Draught exactly agrees with the Plant which is found in our Botaniſts Gardens in *England*, and with this now in Bloom in Mr. *Cowell*'s Garden ; ſo it is apparent, they are the ſame in the Colour, Shape of the Leaf, and, I doubt not, are the ſame in Taſte alſo.

3. As to the Juices being ſweet, as Mr. *Bradley* ſays expreſly, There dropt from the ALOE

which bloſſom'd in *Hampton-Court* and at *Buckinghamſhire* Gardens, a Liquor ſweet as Honey; our Anſwer is two-fold; Firſt, If that is ſo really, and without any ſuch other Tincture, as I ſhall ſpeak of immediately, then it is certain, thoſe *Aloes* were not of the kind of which we are now ſpeaking, and of this which is now in Bloom at Mr. *Cowell's*. Secondly, It is true, that there is a kind of Sweetneſs in the Juices of this *Aloe*; but then it is as true, that after that Sweetneſs is gone off from the Palate, there is a plain Bitter follows it, which is the genuine Savour of the Plant, and which all the *Aloes* uſed in Medicine are known by: Whether this was found in the Plants which Mr. *Bradley* ſaw in their Bloſſom, and of whoſe Juices he taſted, I know not, neither is it to my Purpoſe to inquire.

As to the ſeveral kinds of ALOE which are to be found in all Parts of the World, it cannot be expected I can give a Liſt of their Names, and where to be found, becauſe they are ſo various; it may be as well expected I ſhould give an Account of all the ſeveral Kinds of Orange Trees, or Fig Trees, whoſe ſeveral Kinds are ſo many, that they are not to be reckon'd up, and yet are all Oranges and Figs, tho' of ſome the Taſte is various and different, and even the Virtues and Uſes are ſo alſo; the like is to be ſaid of this Plant; and even of the Kinds which are known, they are very different from one another, as is particularly ſeen in the Plant, of which Mr. *Bradley* ſays two bloſſom'd in the Royal Gardens of *Hampton-Court*, and one in the Garden of the Duke of *Buckinghamſhire*, near St. *James's* Park, both which, I ſay, differ from this Plant; and ſo of others, which Mr. *Bradley* himſelf gives an Account of; for Example:

1. The *Aloe Africana Margaritifera folio Undique, &c.* which in *Engliſh* he calls *Small Pearl'd Aloe*, tho' why it is called ſo, no Reaſon is given, except that it is becauſe the Leaves are cover'd with little, ſmall, round Globules or Excreſcences, white and round, like Pearl: Mr. *Bradley* ſays he brought it from *Holland*, and that it was brought thither, *viz.* to *Amſterdam*, from the Southmoſt Part of *Africa*, near the Cape of *Good Hope*, that is to ſay, from the Latitude of 37 Degrees South, or beyond the Line.

The Leaves of this *Aloe* are ſomething ſhap'd like the other, but exceeding ſmall, not much above an Inch long, nor is the Flower Stalk above a Foot long, yet it grows out of the Center of the Plant, as this of our *Aloe* does, and bears the Flower on ſeveral Side Branches, as this does; the Flower is of a greeniſh White, or, according to Mr. *Bradley*, of a whitiſh Green, take it which Way you pleaſe.

What the Virtues or what the Taſte of the Juices of this Plant are, that learned and curious Gentleman has not, however, informed us; nor, as I ſuppoſe, has any Experiment been made of its Qualities, as whether uſeful in Medicine or not, and if uſeful, how or for what Purpoſes, and how to be made uſe of.

2. The ſame Author has alſo given us the Picture or Draught of another, and yet ſmaller kind of *Aloe*, which he calls, *Aloe Africana Minima*, and in *Engliſh*, the *Little Cluſter'd Aloe*, which he ſays, is alſo an *African* Plant, and is the ſmalleſt of the whole Tribe; the Leaves are ſhap'd like the larger *Aloe*, and are pointed at the End and on the Sides with Spines or Thorns as the other; and, perhaps, this is the chief thing which entitles it to the Name of *Aloe*; for as to the Uſes and Medicinal Virtues of it, 'tis evident that Author, however curious, has obſerved nothing of that kind, and we may therefore well ſuppoſe it without any ſuch Virtues to render it valuable.

3. He gives likewiſe an Account of a third Sort of *Aloe*, which he calls *Aloe Africana caulescens*, or, the *Common Spotted Aloe*, and which he ſays, next to the *Great American* kind, is or has been the moſt frequent in our Gardens.

There is indeed a very unhappy Miſtake (I ſuppoſe of the Printer) in the Title of this Plant in Mr. *Bradley*'s Book, which, conſidering the Exactneſs and Curioſity of that learned Gentleman, the Author, is the more wonderful, and eſpecially becauſe it is ſo eſſential to our underſtanding the Nature of the Plant, which is much to be judged of by the Climate, of which it is a Native; the Miſtake is this, *viz.* That in the *Latin* Column of its Deſcription, it is call'd (as is noted above) *Aloe Africana*, and in the *Engliſh* Column oppoſite to it (and which ordinarily is the *Latin* only of the oppoſite, conſtrued or rendered into *Engliſh*) it is called an *American Aloe*.

Mr. *Bradley* would at firſt Sight, I doubt not, have rectified this Miſtake, had he perceived it, and told us, that the Plant was of *Africa*; ſo we may ſupply that Part, and aſſure our Reader, that it is frequently found on the Eaſtern Side of *Africa* on the Coaſt of *Zanguebar*; and as I am ſince told, 'tis alſo found in the Iſland of *Madegaſcar*: but it may be found in *America* alſo; for many other Plants are naturalized to both thoſe Parts of the World, the Latitude, and conſequently the Climate, being in many Places much the ſame.

Mr. *Bradley* tells us, the Leaves of this *Aloe* are about a Foot long at their longeſt Growth, the Flower of a bright red Colour; if ſo, they are extremely differing from the Flower of any of the other Plants that I have ſeen, that bear the Name of the *Aloe*.

Moſt of theſe Sorts of *Aloes* are to be ſeen at this Time in the ſame Garden of Mr. *Cowell* at *Hoxton*, where the Great *Aloe* is now in its Bloom; and Mr. *Cowell* has alſo ſeveral other kinds, but neither this or any of the other can come up to the Great ALOE, of which we are now writing.

The Leaves indeed of this *Spotted Aloe* are of the like Shape with the other, and like the other they are arm'd at the Ends or Top, and on every Side with ſharp Spines or Thorns, as the *Great Aloe* is, but nothing near ſo large; being not more than a Foot long *as is ſaid*: whereas the Leaves of the Great *Aloe* are ſeveral of them between three and four Foot in Length.

There are, I ſay, ſeveral other Kinds of *Aloes* in the ſame Garden, at Mr. *Cowell's*, all which ſerve but to convince the Reader, that neither they or thoſe which Mr. *Bradley* ſays have bloſſom'd in *England* are the Great Kind, and of the ſame with the Medicinal ALOE of *Zoccatra*, which we inſiſt our *Aloe* may be, and that if it be not exactly the ſame, it muſt be very near of Kin to it.

But there is another remarkable Difference between thoſe *Aloes* which Mr. *Bradley* has deſcrib'd, and Mr *Cowell's*, which, I think alſo, gives the Advantage to this; namely, that Mr. *Bradley* ſays, Thoſe two Plants which bloſſom'd in the Royal Gardens at *Hampton-Court*, put forth four or five Bloſſom Branches on each Side, whereas this Plant, now in its Flower, has already put forth thirty Bloſſom Branches, and is likely to put forth ſeveral more, as likewiſe the Great *Aloe* in the King of *Pruſſia's* Garden did before.

It is alſo remarkable, that our Phyſicians aſcribe no Medicinal Virtue to any of the Kinds but this, and one more, both which come, *as* is ſaid, chiefly from the *Indies*, and that Pharmacy knows but two Kinds, *viz. Aloe Soccatrina* and *Aloe Epatica*, the one of which we ſay is the *Aloe* now in Bloſſom, tho' we do not poſitively reſolve the Queſtion which of the two it is.

As the other and differing Kinds are of no Value in Medicine, ſo neither is it any rare hing to have them ſeen frequently in Flower, oth abroad and in our Climate alſo; whereas ve do not meet with any of the moſt nice and urious Obſervers, whether *Botaniſts* or others, who have ever ſeen this Kind of *Aloe* in its Flower: No, tho' they have been converſant at *Mocha*, and even been on Shore at *Cape Gardefeu*, and on the Iſlands of *Soccatra* themſelves, o rare is the Bloſſom of this Plant.

Hence alſo I ſuppoſe may have riſen that Report of it, namely, that it does not bloſſom but nce in a Hundred Years, which I take to be the Conſequence only of its Bloſſom being ſo very arely ſeen.

Nor does its Flower, I ſuppoſe, continue ſo ong blown out in thoſe hot Climates, as it is aid to do here; for we are aſſured the King of *Pruſſia*'s Plant held its Flower near Twelve Months, which I ſuppoſe no Plant does in its atural Soil and ordinary Growth; but we have ood Reaſon to believe, that this very Plant now lowing, as it has been upwards of three Months ringing forward its Stem and Side Branches ut to the Bud of the Bloſſom, and may be yet me Weeks before all that Bloſſom may be lly ſpread; ſo it may hold in Flower, in one

Part or other, a proportioned Time after it is ſpread, as is uſual in ſuch Flowers to do, which are ſo ſlow and leiſurely in their Growth.

It is very probable, on the other hand, that at the Iſlands of *Zoccatra*, and on the Coaſt of *Æthiopia* and *Arabia*, that is to ſay, on either Side the Gulph, in the Latitude of 13 to 15 and 16 Degrees, where the Plant is in its Native Climate; I ſay, it is very probable, that the Heat being very intenſe, and very little Rain, if any, during the Seaſon of its Bloom, that Flower which is to ſubſiſt all that while upon its own Moiſture, and, as we may ſay, is to drink of no borrowed Streams, may ſooner go off and wither than it will here, where it hardly has a ſufficient Warmth to maintain the Vigour of its Juices, and indeed has not a ſufficient Warmth without the Protection of a Winter Retreat in the Green-houſe, and the Addition ſometimes of artificial Fires in Stoves and Hearths, for the forming a Climate agreeable to its Nature, or what may be called a fitted Temperature of Air for its Entertainment, in its Retreat; for the Green-houſe, is as a kind of *Aſylum* or Refuge, to which the Plant, opreſs'd with the Inclemency of the Winter Air, may be ſaid to fly from thoſe Extremities which it is not qualified to ſupport.

For tho' Mr. *Bradley* is pleaſed to ſay of the kind of *Aloe* which he ſaw Blowing in the Royal Gardens of *Hampton-Court*, and likewiſe in the Duke of *Buckinghamſhire*'s Garden near the Park, that they are hardy, and that

e has known them to bear the Cold of a
hole Winter, without being brought into the
reen-houſe; yet I muſt ſay in Anſwer, that
never found this *Aloe*, or any of this Kind
hich is now in Bloom, would bear any ex-
raordinary or acute Cold; nor tho' I have
ften made the Attempt with due Caution,
ould I ever perſuade it to live abroad longer
an the Month of *October*, without ſenſibly
mplaining of the Cold, and ſometimes it has
een irrecoverably loſt by a moderate Froſt in
e Month of *November*; this by the way,
take to be another and farther Evidence of this
lant being an ALOE of a differing Kind from
ll thoſe mentioned by Mr. *Bradley*, and to be
e ſame with the Great *Aloes* in the Iſland
occatra, as above.

If it was not thus, why does the Author
quoted before) in his *Hiſtory of Plants*, give a
raught of the *Aloe Socatrina*, to be the ſame
Figure with this now blowing, and that with-
ut any the leaſt Variation? whereas all the
ther Sorts, as appears by Mr. *Bradley*'s own
ccount and Draught, have every one of them
me particular Marks of a differing Species.

And why elſe does that Author, who thus
xactly delineates this individual Plant, add in
is Hiſtory, that its Flower is not ſeen in theſe
limates, as I have Reaſon to be aſſured it ne-
er was before; the Plant in his *Pruſſian* Ma-
eſty's Garden only excepted? His Words are
heſe:

" The Flowers, Stalk and Seed, are muc
" like the Flowers, Stalk and Seed of th
" *Aſſodyl*, as *Dioſcorides* ſaith. But, *adds th*
" *Author*, in theſe Parts they have not bee
" ſeen.

Hence I take upon me to ſay, That th ALOE now in Bloom at *Hoxton*, in th Garden of Mr. *Cowell*, is certainly the ver ALOE of *Africa* and *Arabia*, as well as o *America*, and that never any one of this Kin bloſſom'd in this Nation before, no nor i *Europe*, that in his *Pruſſian* Majeſty's Garde only excepted.

It was obſerv'd of that Plant in his *Pruſſia* Majeſty's Garden, if Fame may be depende upon, that it grew up to the Heighth o Thirty-one Foot, which, however, I do not aſſer But it is evident, that this Plant is already grow higher by ſeveral Foot, than any of thoſe whic it is alledg'd have blown in *England*; and it is already above twenty Foot high, which muſt be acknowledg'd is, for a Shrub (and th is no other) higher than any ſuch Plant ha been known to grow in *Europe* for many Year perhaps, than any Shrub was ever known t grow before; there are, indeed, ſome of th creeping or twining Kind, which will run u by Poles and Trees, and the Sides of Houſes t an incredible Heighth, ſuch as the Hop, th *Virginia* Creeper, ſome Kinds of Bean, th *Bear-bind*, the Vine, and ſeveral others, bu no not to run up with one upright perpendicular Stem ſupporting itſelf, and able to ſupport other Plants by its own Strength.

Now as this Plant is ſtill riſing, and ſtill putting forth more Bloſſom Branches towards its Top, ſo it is very likely, that as it grows near its Summit, it may run up into a ſmaller Spindle, as moſt Spiral Plants do, and ſo may ſhoot up more than ordinarily to the Top of the Flower or Bloſſom; if ſo, it is very probable that this Plant may grow up to 24 or 26 Foot high this Seaſon; whether it will recover its Strength, and add to its Heighth the next Summer or Spring, that is a Difficulty that nothing but the Return of the Spring can reſolve.

It may be true, that as ſuch a Plant as this never blow'd in *England* before, ſo not Mr. *Cowell* only, but neither Mr. *Cowell*, or any other Gardener, no not Mr. *Bradley* himſelf, after all his Search into this Part of Nature's Work, can before-hand tell how ſhe will operate in putting forth ſo nice a Plant to ſo large a Dimenſion, in a foreign Climate, and a Soil far from being its Native, or Mother Earth.

Nay, tho' Mr. *Cowell* had ſeen the manner of its Growth in Parts Abroad, where it may be ſaid to draw in its Native Air, and drink its Mother's Milk, yet it may vary in many Things upon its arriving to ſuch a Head as this has done, in a remote Country: Plants, like other Creatures, certainly participate in many Particulars, from the Air they breathe in; I call it

Breathing, for the Vegetative Life may be ſaid to breathe; that is to ſay, they draw in Air, and ſome of them live by that which they draw in almoſt as much as by what they draw up from the Earth.

Mr. *Cowell*, who tho' he makes no Boaſt o his Knowledge, as ſome do, has ſhewn that h is not ignorant of this, in the Method he ha taken with this Plant, which, if it had been i other Hands, he may ſay, without Vanity would hardly have ſhewn itſelf at this Time a it has done.

But yet, as I have ſaid, Mr. *Cowell*, nor I believe, not a Man living can yet foreſee exactly how, and to what Degree the Growth o it ſhall go on, what Progreſſion it ſhall make and when, or at what Time it ſhall have don blowing; and therefore, as above, he does no fill the Heads of the Gentlemen who come t ſee the Plant, with any Flouriſhes of what may or will be.

It is enough, and he believes the moſt Curiou will think it ſo, that it already puts forth ſuch Flowers, and ſuch Cluſters, and 'promiſes ſ many more, by extending ſo many Side Branches on which the Flowers are expected that no Aloe in this Country ever did, nor i any other Country in this Part of the World that is to ſay, in *Europe*, except as I all along have excepted, that one Plant in the Roya *Pruſſian* Gardens: and therefore, he hopes, h may recommend it as a rare Thing in thi Country, and may invite the Curious to loo

o

on it as on a Thing which is qualified to pleaſe
hem, tho' he may not be able to tell them every
Step that Nature will take in the Progreſſion
f it, to make it yet more agreeable to their
Curioſity.

Some have ſuggeſted, that when the Plant
as put forth all its Flowers it will die; and
Ir. *Bradley* ſeems to intimate, that it was ſo
ith the two Plants that bloom'd in the Gardens
f *Hampton Court*; to this Mr. *Cowell* ſays, he
oes not know how it was with thoſe Plants,
o' he has heard they did die as ſoon as they
ad done blowing; neither can he be aſſured
ow it will fare with this Plant; but this he
kes upon him to ſay, that the Plant ſhews yet
o Signs of Mortality about it; on the con-
ary, it appears perfectly Sound and Healthy,
d gives all poſſible Tokens of its being in a
ouriſhing Condition; and he cannot but ſay, he
elieves it will be ſo far from dying, that it
ill continue to put forth Suckers or Layers,
l the while it blows, as it uſually did, which
no Sign of its fainting under the Expence of
pirits, or of Moiſture in the Supply of its
loſſoms.

Beſides, Mr. *Cowell* does not ſee why Na-
re, which is no improvident Mother, ſhould
rect her Produce ſo to exhauſt herſelf, in the
tting forth its Bloſſom only, as to faint under
e Operation, and die in the Middle of its
ork; for 'tis evident, that the Bloſſom is but
e Middle, between the Leaf and the Fruit of
y Plant: Indeed, if it ſhould go on to fol-

low the Bloſſom with a Production of an
kind of Fruit or Seed, (as we now ſee it wil
which ſhould grow out upon the going off
the Flower, then, indeed, ſome Plants are a
to fail, and we frequently ſee a Tree kill'd
bearing, or rather putting out too much Frui
the Fruit itſelf alſo falling off before it com
to its full Maturity. But that a Tree ſhou
kill itſelf with producing its Flower only,
not according to the ordinary Courſe of Natu
and eſpecially that it ſhould always do ſo;
ſo it is alledg'd it is and muſt be, I mean h
in *England*.

But Mr. *Cowell* has ſomething farther to
upon this Head, and this indeed is partly
Reaſon why this Part is mentioned, *viz.*

1. He ſays, That this *Aloe* had not arriv'd
the Strength and Capacity of putting forth
Flower, in the manner as it has now done,
he had not alſo exerted ſome Skill, and tr
ſome particular Experiments in the Soil,
in the frequent changing and altering the N
ture of the Earth which it grows in, ſo as
bring it to reliſh and like the Soil it now gr
in more than ordinarily, particularly m
than it did ſeveral other Compoſitions, wh
he had, at ſundry Times, nouriſh'd it w
before.

2. As he did thus uſe his utmoſt Skill
Experience in ſuiting the Soil or Earth wh
it ſtands in, and frequently renewing the ſa

and has, as appears by the Conſequence, done t with Succeſs, ſo, Mr. *Cowell* ſays, he does ot doubt, but by the ſame Application, he hall be able to keep the Plant in ſuch Vigour nd Strength, and that notwithſtanding the Aproach of Winter, as ſhall abundantly ſupply t for all the Expence it will want to beſtow pon its Bloom, and alſo upon the Fruit or eed which now follows it.

And this takes away all the pretended Obection, which ſome, and thoſe Men of Art oo, have raiſed againſt its ſtanding in a Tub r Veſſel, ſuggeſting that the ſaid Tub or Veſſel, owever large it may be, cannot give the Suply of Nutriment that the Plant will naturally ll for on this extraordinary Occaſion, and erefore the Plant muſt die of courſe, by a ere Deprivation of Life, as the Day dies away to Darkneſs by the mere Deprivation of ight.

But I ſay, the above Argument removes l this Objection, becauſe Mr. *Cowell*, has om the Beginning of the Plant's promiſing a oom, ſo conſtantly and ſuitably ſupply'd ſuch uantities of new and prepar'd Aliment or ouriſhment, for the full Demand of Nature on is Occaſion, and has furniſhed it ſo effectually r daily and further Demands, if it ſhould require y, that the Narrowneſs or Smallneſs of the ub in which it grows, can no way affect the ant, but it will have a conſtant Flux of Nouriſhent, as ſufficient as if it ſtood in a Heap

or Bulk of fifty times the Quantity ; and if th
Plant ſhould ſeem to decay upon its having full
blown, as he is fully perſuaded it cannot, h
will convince the moſt critical Perſon in th
World, that it cannot be for want of ſufficien
Supply of Earth.

The only Enemy it can have in our Climat
is the Cold, and this brings me of mere Courſ
to return to his *Pruſſian* Majeſty's Plant, o
Aloe: We have an Account, that the Kin
being wonderfully pleaſed witth ſuch an extra
ordinary Production of Nature, and very curio
to have it preſerv'd, caus'd a cloſe Fabrick o
Building to be erected about the Plant, in the Plac
where it ſtood, in the Nature of a Green-Houſe
into which he had Artificial Heat convey'
by Stoves and Fires at proper Diſtances ſo as t
preſerve an equal Heat, and form a Climat
ſuitable to the Latitude of the Plant; that is t
ſay, of the Country from whence the Plant wa
ſaid to be brought, namely, to the Latitude o
16 to 17 Degrees: That here his *Pruſſia*
Majeſty's Gardeners watch'd the Plant with th
utmoſt Care to obſerve the Heat, keep it in
due Temperament and Equality, that the Alo
might not ſuffer, either by too much Cold, o
too much Heat.

In like manner Mr. *Cowell*, though not abl
to beſtow ſuch a great Expence, as withou
doubt his *Pruſſian* Majeſty did to gratify hi
Curioſity; I ſay, in like manner, Mr. *Cowel*
in his Degree, has for ſome Weeks paſt mad
Preparations for preſerving this choice Work o

Nature in the approaching Seaſon of Winter, nd that at a very great Expence.

In order to this, he has built round it at Bottom in Proportion to the Bulk of the Plant, nd to preſerve it from Cold at the Root; nd has ſufficiently, as he believes, fenc'd in the Tub in which the Root of the Plant is plac'd, o as to ſecure it effectually, and has prepar'd Stoves and Fire Places, to keep a conſtant Fire or Warmth rather) equal in Proportion to the Country from whence it came.

Nor has he been wanting to carry on his uilding to an equal Heighth, as the Plant has dvanc'd in its Growth; and having ſurrounded in ſome Parts with Timber and Boards, and other Places with Glaſs, but in all Parts ſo ffectual and cloſe, as to keep all keen Blaſts f Air from it, which might pierce or penetrate e Plant itſelf, has, as 'tis believ'd, effectually cur'd the Plant from all Inclemencies of the Weather, be the Winter how tedious, or how vere ſoever.

Indeed, Mr. *Cowell* has not provided for a rowth of 40 Foot high; but as he has not et covered the Building at all, leaving Room o the Plant to ſhoot up as high as Nature ſhall irect: So as the Plant ſhall ſhoot up, he has ade Proviſion in his Building to add ſeveral ther Stages of Work, as the Heighth of e Plant ſhall require.

Alſo he is preparing Stoves in the Outſide of s Turret, for keeping ſlow and ſoft Fires at roper Diſtance from the Plant, which by Pipes

regularly plac'd for that Purpoſe, ſhall convey
due Proportion of Heat for Supply of the Pla
and ſuitable to the Climate from whence
may be ſuppoſed to come.

By theſe Fires thus conveying and ſupplyi
a proper Temperature of Air, as abo
Mr. *Cowell* does not doubt to keep the Pl
as well growing as blowing, till Nature ſh
have fully perform'd and finiſh'd its Operatio
and till the whole is arriv'd to its full Matur
(*viz.*) the Flowers or Bloſſoms to be fu
open'd and blown out, and the Stem advan
to a Point or Pyramid, the Top Bloſſ
crowning the whole in a regular Spire, as
formerly explain'd in Print; and if this can
and the ſaid Bloſſom preſerv'd ſo long as till
ſhall go off in its due and ordinary Courſe,
as it would have gone off if it had blown
its own natural Climate, he makes no do
but the Seed or Fruit, whatſoever it is, tha
uſually produc'd by the ſame Plant in *Arab*
or *Æthiopia*, or *Mexico*, where it is m
commonly found, will alſo follow; for i
not very uſual to find the Bloſſom of a Pl
ſpread itſelf fully out (tho' it be in a Clim
differing from that where the Plant itſelf o
narily grows) but that alſo the Seed will foll
as is evident in the Balm of *Mecca*, ordina
call'd *Balm of Gilead*, which is like an *Arab*
and a *Peruvian* Plant, and yet is produc'd h
by the Help of Art, to ſuch a Perfection, t
not only the Flower or Bloſſom is propagated,
the Seed after it, and that to ſuch a Perfecti

s to raiſe the ſame Plant again from that Seed hat is produc'd here: Of which I can ſhew ivers Specimens now in being.

It is to this Trial that the Evidence of Kind is eferr'd, that is to ſay, upon the Production of he Flower and Seed, it will be aſcertain'd, beond all poſſible Objection, what particular Kind or Species of the *Aloe* this Plant is come rom, whether the *Aloe Socatrina*, as we are ully perſuaded it is, or the *Aloe Epatica*; whether it may be call'd *Africana* or *Ameriana*; and the particular Trial will be then made by its Juices, which till the Plant is come a Strength ſufficient to put forth its Flower r Bloſſom, and to ſupport the Flower in its ll Vigour, ſo as to produce a Seed after, it annot be ſuppoſed to be brought to their perect Flavour and Taſte.

But then it is not doubted, but it will appear whether the Juices are as Sweet as Honey, or Bitter enough to give a Tincture to the *Hira Picra*, or *Tinctura Sacra*, the chief Bitter whereof is, as we are told, the *Aloe*. This Difficulty I ſay, we ſhall hope to ſee reſolv'd as ſoon as the Bloſſom of this Plant is fully ſpread, and begins to go off; till which it muſt be acknowledg'd, that what already appears, makes the Plant ſufficiently admir'd, as what has never been produc'd in this Climate before, and, as is ſaid already, not in *Europe*, except that one in the King of *Pruſſia*'s Garden.

OF THE

CEREUS

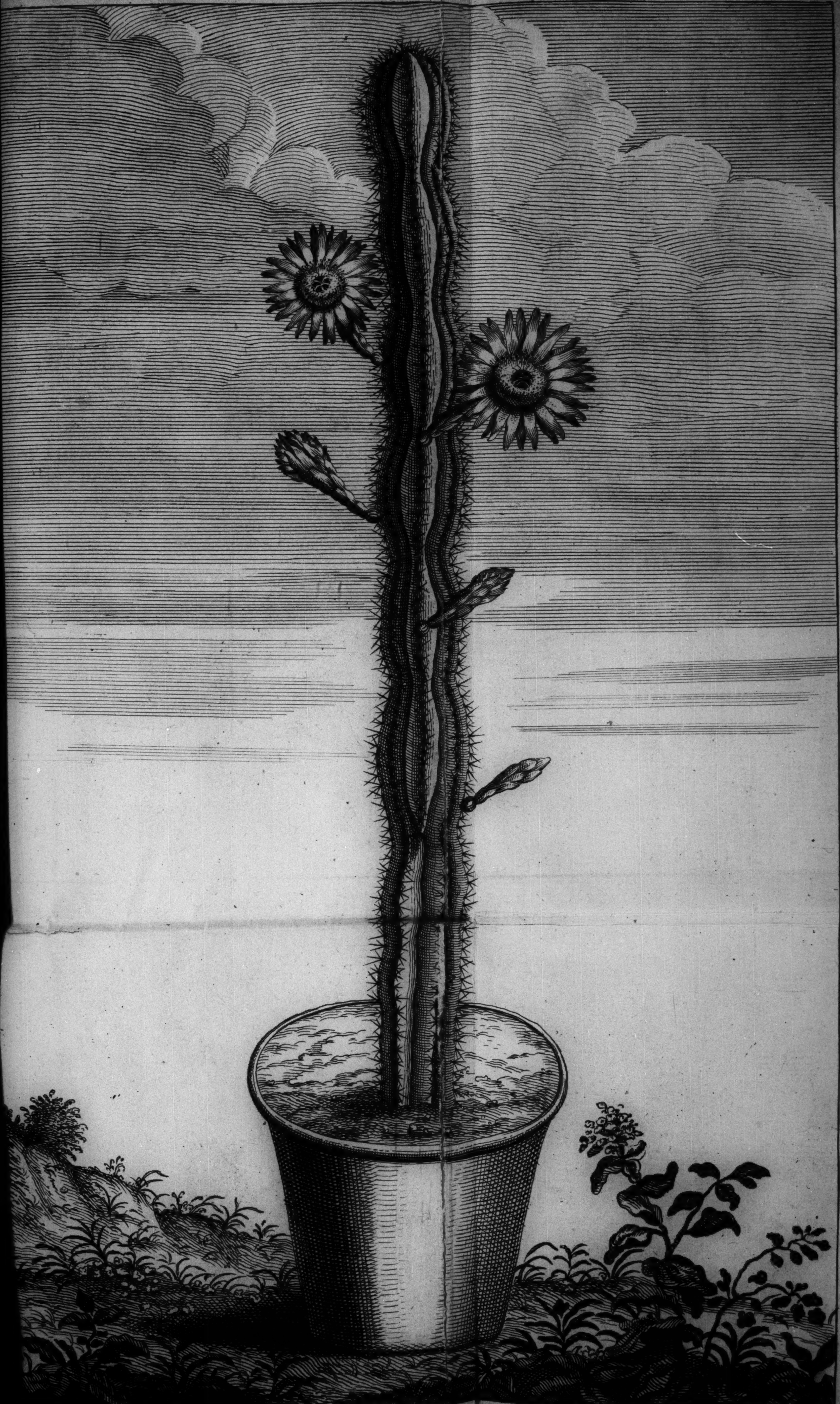
OR

Great *Torch-Thiſtle,*

Two of which have alſo ſhot forth each
upright Stem of nine Foot high, an
put out ten Bloſſoms fully ſpread
and of an extraordinary Size,
the ſame Garden of Mr. Cowell a
Hoxton, *in the Month of* Auguſt,
the Year 1729.

THE Learned Mr. *Bradley*, ſo ofte mention'd above, has given us brief, tho' as now appears, ſome Things, an imperfect Ac count of this Plant.

Mr. *Bradley* calls it the *Cereus Erectus*, the *Upright*, with the Addition in the *Engl* of *the Great Torch-Thiſtle*; it is true, ingenious Gentleman has not given us Additio



An exact and genuine draught of y^e **TORCH THISTLE**, *taken by order of M^r. Cowel as it blow'd in his Garden at* **Hoxton.**

liphant pinx. *I. Mynde Sc.*

Addition to its Name as deriv'd from the *Latin*; nor is it any where, as I can find, ſignified in the *Latin* Name *Cereus*, which, indeed, he has not given us the proper *Engliſh* of: It is true, he adds the Word *Maximus*, or *Great* to its *Latin* Name, tho' I do not find that even that is to diſtinguiſh it from a leſſer Kind, for that he does not tell us of any leſſer Kind to be found, either here, or any where elſe; that is to ſay, which differs from the great only in its Magnitude; for that which he calls the *Cereus Minor*, he calls in *Engliſh*, the *Six-Ribb'd Torch Thiſtle*, and in its *Latin* Deſcription he calls it *Hexangularis*, as he does the other *.

Another the ſame Author deſcribes of a quite differing Kind, and ſhooting only Leaves, which the other does not, and this he calls *Cereus Triangularis*, or the *Three-Ribb'd Torch-Thiſtle*.

And laſtly, Mr. *Bradley* gives us the Deſcription of another, which he calls *Cereus Octangularis*, and in *Engliſh* the *Great White Torch-Thiſtle*. I ſuppoſe he calls it White, becauſe the Spines or Thorns which it ſhoots out from the Angles of its Sides are White; for as to Flower, he acknowledges it has not been known to have flower'd in *Europe*: But as the other, or firſt Sort, which he alſo calls the *Great Torch-Thiſtle*, or in his *Latin* Title *Maximus*, the

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* *Vide* Bradley *Hiſt. Plantarum Succulent*, *Dec.* 1. *p.* 3.

Greateſt, has flower'd, and that in *Latin* he calls *Flore Albo*, I think it had a fairer Claim to the Title of the *White Torch-Thiſtle* than the other.

It is, indeed, ſomething ſtrange Mr. *Bradley* ſhould give the Name of *Flore Albo* to this Plant, when, at the ſame time, he adds in the Deſcription, that tho' the Flower is radiated with white Petals, yet that the Body of the Flower is of the Colour of Sulphur, or Brimſtone: But that is not much to our Caſe here.

Mr. *Bradley* ſays, this Plant will riſe up to the Heighth of twenty Foot; it is true, the particular Plants which are now in Mr. *Cowell's* Garden, have not riſen to above nine Foot, yet I have reaſon to believe they are come to their full Perfection of Growth, becauſe of their having put forth their Flowers in their full Dimenſions. But this is not Material, for nothing is more frequent than for Plants and Trees, as well as Men, to carry a different Bulk and Heighth, and yet to be in their full Perfection of Vigour and Strength; and we often find, ſhorter Trees meaſure as much Timber as taller, and ſhorter Men be as ſtrong, as vigorous, as comely as taller.

It is certain, theſe Plants which have now blown at *Hoxton*, are of the firſt Kind, which Mr. *Bradley* has deſcrib'd, tho' the Flower may have differ'd ſomething from his in its Colour and Size; for the Colour of this Flower was, as has ſeveral times been deſcrib'd in Publick, of a beautiful Purple, White and Yellow; and the

Body of the Flower, which is a Collection of ſmall Capillary Leaves, and being put together, give the Colour or Shade to the whole, was of a Brimſtone Colour.

It riſes up Perpendicular from the Earth (ſo Mr. *Bradley* deſcribes it) like a Pillar or Column ſhooting directly ſtrait, without putting forth either Leaf or Branch, nothing but innumerable Thorns, of a brown Colour, which come out of the Angles of its Stem, the Stem itſelf as green as Graſs: The Thorns grow out in Bunches like Pears.

When the Plant puts forth its Flowers, they ſhoot out ſmall Branches at the Sides, about ſix in Length, at the Extremities whereof the Flower ſpreads itſelf; the Colour as above: The Dimenſions Mr. *Bradley* ſays, four Inches Diameter, the Flower of this at Mr. *Cowell's* not ſo much, being from ſeven to nine Inches Circumference, which is ſtill a Proportion to its Heighth, which has not yet been (as above) more than nine or ten Foot; and we ſuppoſe, as ten Foot is to twenty in the Heighth of the Stem, ſo ſeven Inches may to twelve Inches in the Circumference of the Bloſſom: As to the Variety of the Colour, as it is a Thing variable in its own Nature, and that many Plants of the ſame Species often vary the Colour of their Bloſſoms, ſo I think it is of no Importance.

This Plant was brought from *Holland*, and the Perſon who had it there, conſtantly affirmed he brought it from *Africa*, near the Cape of *Good Hope*, in his Way home from the *Indies*. But as Mr. *Bradley* gives, as well this as all the other Sorts which he deſcribes, the Title of *Americana*, and that ſome of them are common in the *Weſt-Indies*, I am willing to give up to his Opinion, and conclude that it is a Native of *America* only.

The Blowing in the Night only, is what that Learned Author takes no Notice of in his Account of the *Torch Thiſtle*; but as I found this Plant in *Hoxton* conſtantly did ſo, and ſhut up its Flower every Morning, I concluded the whole Kind does ſo; or, if you pleaſe, that it is ordinary for it to do ſo; yet is there no extraordinary Rarity in that Particular, ſeveral other Exotick Plants doing the ſame.

Nor was this the only Thing curious in its blowing, but that every ſingle Bloſſom came out by itſelf, only one blowing at a Time, and that having once blown out in the Evening after Sun-ſet, and ſhut in again in the Morning before Sun-riſing, the ſame Bloſſom died, and open'd itſelf no more. Theſe are Things which ſeem very particular, and may employ the Curious a great while before they will be able to account for them.

BRITISH MUSEUM

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